

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9785

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: DC YOUTH MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP OUSTED

1. FEBRUARY 25 CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY DIRECTORATE MEETING TOOK DECISION TO DISSOLVE CENTRAL ORGANS OF 300,000 MEMBER DC YOUTH MOVEMENT (DCYM). PARTY LEFT-WING BASE AND FORZE NUEVE FACTIONS VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION, WHILE ONE MORO FACTION LEADER (BELCI) ABSTAINED. MORO HIMSELF AND ALL OTHER PARTY FACTIONS (REPRESENTING FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE DC MEMBERSHIP) VOTED IN FAVOR. FIVE-MEMBER COMMISSION CHOSEN BY THE DC DIRECTORATE AND HEADED BY DC VICE SECRETARY RUFFINI WAS INSTALLED TO RUN THE DCYM AND PREPARE A YOUTH CONFERENCE TO ELECT A NEW DCYM LEADERSHIP. THE MAXIMUM AGE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE DCYM WAS LOWERED FROM 27 TO 21 YEARS.

2. THE DRASTIC PURGE OF THE DCYM LEADERSHIP WAS THE RESULT OF ITS INCREASINGLY HOSTILE PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARD DC PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI. DCYM SECRETARY PIZZA VOTED AGAINST FANFANI AT THE JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 3 DC NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AND HIS NEGATIVE VOTE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE DCYM DIRECTORATE. IN ADDITION, THE PRO-FANFANI DC LEADERSHIP ACCUSED THE DCYM OF ORGANIZATIONAL INEFFICIENCY AND A TENDENCY TOWARD OVERLY CLOSE TIES WITH THE COMMUNIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION.

3. COMMENT: FRICTION BETWEEN THE DCYM AND FANFANI HAS BEEN
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BUILDING UP FOR SOME TIME. FANFANI'S DECISION TO PROCEED WITH

DRASTIC MEASURES AGAINST THE DCYM LEADERSHIP IS IN LINE WITH HIS INCREASINGLY VIGOROUS WIELDING OF HIS DC NATIONAL COUNCIL MANDATE TO PREPARE THE DC FOR THE JUNE REGIONAL ELECTIONS. BY PURGIN THE DCYM LEADERSHIP AND LOWERING THE MAXIMUM AGE FOR DCYM MEMBERSHIP TO 21, FANFANI SHOULD BE ABLE TO BRING THE YOUTH MOVEMENT BACK UNDER PARTY CONTROL. HOWEVER, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE DECAPITATION OF THE DCYM AT THIS TIME WILL HELP THE DC TO MOBILIZE THE YOUTH VOTE FOR THE KEY REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN JUNE. VOLPE

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